

students to achieve higher education and attend Young Harris College.

Dr. Coker was a generous man, and he will be greatly missed.

TAX REFORM

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, day after day, the President and congressional Republicans have sought to frame their tax proposal as a tax cut for hardworking middle class families and not a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, even going so far as to say it will not add to the deficit. Quite simply, they are trying to sell the American people a dream that will not become a reality.

In New Jersey alone, 25 percent of the residents will see their taxes increase by \$2,400, annually. That means one in four New Jerseyans are affected by this failed strategy of trickle-down economics.

These aren't the very rich. I am talking about New Jersey's regular working families. These New Jerseyans are a part of the 47 million Americans that will see a tax increase.

This horrific tax reform plan and the rhetoric my Republican colleagues are using to garner support is simply fake news. It is a tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

I refuse to participate in the crippling of the middle class and the working class and the halting of continued growth of the American economy by rubberstamping this billionaires-first tax scheme.

TAX REFORM LISTENING TOUR

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week in Minnesota, I conducted a tax reform listening tour, visiting small businesses in our community about why tax reform is so important. Throughout the tour, it was evident that these small businesses were enthusiastic that tax reform means more jobs, higher wages, and a stronger economy.

Diversified Plastics in Brooklyn Park, an employee-owned company that manufactures and assembles plastic injection products, said that being able to immediately expense new equipment will allow them to invest more in their company and hire more people.

Northstar Balloons in Plymouth, which manufactures and distributes foil party balloons, said that a Tax Code that provides stability and predictability will allow them to invest in their company with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the message was clear: fixing a broken Tax Code will help small businesses hire more people, give their employees a raise, and create a

growing and a more competitive economy.

FILVETS

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, our country is forever grateful for the service and sacrifice of the over 200,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who bravely served our country during World War II, heroes like Sixto Tabay, the last living Filipino World War II veteran on the Island of Kauai, whom I had the good fortune to meet with recently, people like him who fought bravely and sacrificed greatly.

So many made the ultimate sacrifice alongside our American troops in that war, yet their service for decades has gone unrecognized by our country.

Because of legislation that we passed, today, a very special day, these warriors were finally receiving the recognition that they earned and deserve, joining the heroic ranks of the likes of the Tuskegee Airmen and Hawaii's own 442nd 100th Infantry Battalion, as we honored them in the U.S. Capitol with the Congressional Gold Medal, our Nation's highest civilian honor.

To Major General Antonio Taguba, the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, and all of our World War II Filipino veterans and their families who worked so hard and were so patient in making today a reality, "thank you very much to all of you," "maraming salamat sa inyong lahat."

GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, October is German-American Heritage Month. I am co-chair of the Congressional German-American Caucus with Congressman BILL KEATING, and our caucus highlights German contributions to our country.

It is estimated that 50 million Americans have German ancestry, and according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Germans are the largest single ethnic group in the United States.

The caucus works to emphasize the friendship and alliance between the United States and Germany. We do so through an Oktoberfest networking event and through our support for programs like the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange internship program. The caucus also discusses timely topics such as trade, security, and foreign affairs and how they relate to our German counterparts.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we have a proud German heritage. Frederick Muhlenberg, a German immigrant and Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania, whose family also founded Muhlenberg College, was the first

Speaker of the House following the signing of the new Constitution.

The caucus has more than 100 members, and I urge all those who are interested in joining to do so today during German-American Heritage Month.

DENOUNCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was joined by many of our colleagues to echo the pleas of over 100 women who came dressed as brides here to D.C. to put a face on the brutal murder of Gladys Ricart, a victim of domestic violence who was killed in 1999. Yesterday I said that I was Gladys Ricart and that we were all Gladys Ricart.

While this was happening, Mr. Speaker, I am distressed to inform you that a woman in my district in Inwood was fatally stabbed to death and beaten with a dumbbell by her long-time boyfriend. Police officers found Claudina Cruz dead, with multiple stab wounds to the torso and head trauma.

She is also Gladys Ricart. We are all Gladys Ricart.

I ask my colleagues to join me in denouncing domestic violence for Gladys, Claudina, and every victim of domestic violence across the country. Congress must reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act when it comes before us next year.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MALCOM RANDALL VA MEDICAL CENTER

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Named after its first director, who ran the hospital for 30 years, the Malcom Randall VA Center first opened its doors to our Nation's veterans on October 22, 1967. Since then, it has grown from its original staff of 500 to be the centerpiece of our Nation's largest veterans health delivery system.

Today, the Malcom Randall VA Center serves over 140,000 veterans a year, consists of 14 hospitals and clinics, and acts as a teaching hospital in conjunction with the University of Florida medical school and other affiliates.

The services Malcom Randall VA provides to our veterans cannot be overstated, and I am proud to know that this institution is in my hometown.

Once again, congratulations to them for reaching this milestone.

FEMA DENIALS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House